GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1169
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003
PENSION ANOMALIES
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received representations from Very Important Persons and Pensionersto remove pension anomalies with regard to pensioners of Coal India Limited and its ancilliary companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether in the light of the recommendations of fifth pay commission all pensioners were given equal increase in pension, but some pensioners got its benefit and some are deprived of it; and

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): Yes, sir.

(b): The employees of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are covered under a Contributory Pension Scheme, the Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998, which is uniformly applicable to all its members. However, there is a miniscule number of employees of coal companies who were drawing Central Government salaries at the time of their absorption in CIL. Out of this category of employees, most of the representations received sought parity of pensionary benefits and DA benefits between the following two sub-categories of employees:

i. Such employees of Coal India Limited and its Subsidiaries whose services were pensionable at the time of their absorption and who had opted to retain Central Pay Commission scales (Central Government Scales), even after absorption into CIL and ;

ii. Such employees whose services were non-pensionable at the time of their absorption into Coal India Limited and who had opted for PSU scales after absorption.

All such references were examined in detail in the Board of Directors of coal companies and in the Ministry of Coal in consultation with Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare. Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare has categorically denied the benefits of Central Government's Liberalized Pension Scheme to employees mentioned in category
(ii) above. The issue of payment of Dearness Relief on pension was settled by an order of High Court of Patna, Ranchi Bench, which had ruled that such employees could not get Central Government Dearness Relief. These issues were also settled in the Supreme Court.

All important references received on these issues were replied to in accordance with the decisions indicated above.

(c) & (d) : As per the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission the pension of Ex-NCDC/ Coal Board Employees who were governed under Central Government Pay Scales and had retired from Pensionable Service on or after 1.1.1986 have been revised.. All other pensioners drawing pension in schemes other than the Central Government Pension Scheme are not covered under the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.